

XVIII.—*Descriptions of two new Birds from Tibet*\*.

By Dr. JULIUS VON MADARÁSZ.

1. MYIOPHONEUS TIBETANUS, n. sp.

- ♂. Cærulescenti-ater; fronte, apicibus plumarum pectoris metallice splendentibus; humeris ultramarinis; remigibus rectricibusque atris ultramarino tinctis; rostro flavo, culmine nigrescente; pedibus nigris. Long. tot. c. 300 mm., al. 165 mm., caud. 120 mm., rostr. a fr. 26 mm., tars. 55 mm.

This new species is similar to *M. temmincki*, but smaller, and differs in the colouring as follows:—the glistening tips of the feathers on the breast and abdomen are infinitely smaller, and on the back totally absent; the light blotches on the end of the secondary coverts are also wanting. In *M. temmincki* the bases of the feathers on the abdomen and flanks are white; in this new species, on the contrary, they are uniformly black.

2. PUCRASIA MEYERI, n. sp.

- ♂. *Pucrasia xanthospilæ* mari similis, sed pectore et abdomine medio vividius castaneis; rectricibus intermediis fulvis, nigro-striatis, rectricibus lateralibus rufis, apicem versus nigris, albo terminatis. Long. tot. c. 530 mm., al. 250 mm., caud. 240 mm., rostr. a fr. 28 mm., tars. 70 mm.
- ♀. *Pucrasia xanthospilæ* feminae similis, sed mento, gula et colli lateribus luteis; rectricibus intermediis fulvis, nigro-vermiculatis, rectricibus lateralibus rufis, apicem versus nigris, albo terminatis. Long. tot. c. 480 mm., al. 220 mm., caud. 190 mm., rostr. a fr. 25 mm., tars. 65 mm.

*Male*. Forehead, cheeks, throat, and the lengthened part of the crest black, with greenish-blue reflections from the one point of view, and deep lilac from the other. Crown of head and shorter part of the crest dusky sandy buff; a patch on

\* I have described a new species, *Tetraophasis széchenyi*, in the 'Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie,' 1885, p. 50, as coming from Szü-csuan, East Tibet; but I have since been informed that all the specimens, among which was that of the last-named species, were purchased from a person who brought them from Central Tibet.

each side of the neck pure white; behind the white patches and nape a band of ochre-yellow, some feathers having a black line on the margins. Back black, every feather having along its shaft a 3 mm. broad line, which diminishes towards the tips, some of them being yellowish, and others grey mixed with brown, and all bordered with grey. The lower back, rump, sides of the breast, and abdomen ashy grey; all the feathers bordered with black and grey, some rump-feathers having a mixed dingy fawn-colour. Fore neck, middle of the breast, and abdomen rich dark chestnut. Primaries and secondaries of a darkish brown, the outer webs bordered with light fawn-colour; secondary coverts black, fawn at their bases, freckled with black; a narrow line along the shafts of light brownish grey; all margined with grey. Upper tail-coverts fawn-colour, striped and freckled with black. Central tail-feathers rufous, becoming lighter at the tips, with two irregular black lines on each side, margined with fawn-colour; outer tail-feathers rich rufous on the outer webs, and brownish on the inner margins, banded with black, each feather tipped with pure white; underside of tail brownish black broadly tipped with white; the under tail-coverts deep chestnut, irregularly marked with black, all being broadly tipped with white; vent uniformly light chestnut.

*Female.* The head, a line through the eyes, and a narrow band encircling the lower part of the throat black glossed with green, each head-feather edged with light rufous; ear-coverts and a stripe on both sides of the nape light rufous edged with black, glossed with green. Superciliary stripe, chin, throat, and sides of neck tawny. All round the lower part of the neck, breast, abdomen, and vent light rufous—brighter on the lower neck and upper breast—with a greyish shade; each feather freckled and deeply margined with black, shaft light. Back, rump, and upper tail-coverts pale brown, striped with white, fawn-colour, and black, freckled with black, deeply blotched with black on the interscapular region. Primaries dusky brown, exterior margins fawn-colour; secondaries dusky brown, bordered on outside with light rufous freckled with brown. Wing-coverts as in the male. The

central tail-feathers rufous, irregularly patched with black ; outer tail-feathers uniformly rich rufous, thinly margined on the inner sides with dusky brown, each feather banded with black and tipped with white ; underside of tail-feathers similarly marked, but of a brownish dusky shade. Under tail-coverts rich rufous, tipped with white.

I take the liberty of naming this new species after my esteemed friend, the well-known ornithologist, Hofrath Dr. A. B. Meyer, Director of the Dresden Museum.

The type specimens of these new species belong to the Hungarian National Museum.

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XIX.—*On the Claws and Spurs of Birds' Wings.*

By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

IN the 'Proceedings' of the Boston Society of Natural History for 1881 (vol. xxi. p. 301) will be found an excellent paper by Mr. J. Amory Jeffries, "On the Claws and Spurs on Birds' Wings," which, I regret to say, has hitherto escaped notice in the columns of this Journal. It is, however, eminently worthy of careful study. Mr. Jeffries shows definitely for the first time, so far as I can make out\*, that the spurs which are in some cases found on the wings of birds are of an entirely different nature from the claws also met with on the same organs, and have, in fact, nothing whatever to do with them.

The spur, as Mr. Jeffries points out, is a structure on the wing which corresponds to the spur on the tarsus of the

\* Even so recent an authority as Dr. Selenka ('Bronn's Thier-Reich,' Aves, p. 75) has confounded together the spur and claw of birds. His account of the subject contains several serious misstatements, and is obviously not based on his own examination. Owen's 'Anatomy of Vertebrates' (cf. *op. cit.* ii. p. 74) likewise confounds claws and spurs. It must be even admitted that Nitzsch (usually a model of accuracy, and the first scientific describer of the claws of birds) did not quite understand the differences between claws and spurs (see his 'Osteographische Beiträge,' no. 5. "Ueber das Nagelglied der Flügelfinger, besonders des Daumens : " Leipzig, 1811).